

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 008203

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR; IIP/RW; IIP/RNY; BBG/VOA; IIP/WEU; AF/PA;
EUR/WE /P/SP; D/C (MCCOO); EUR/PA; INR/P; INR/EUC; PM; OSC
ISA FOR ILN; NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC FOR
ITA/EUR/FR AND PASS USTR/PA; USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO/PA;
MOSCOW/PA; ROME/PA; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - Allegations of CIA Flights
Iraq G-7 Summit Franco-African Summit
PARIS - Friday, December 02, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

Allegations of CIA Flights
Iraq
G-7 Summit
Franco-African Summit

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

The government's education measures for deprived areas, as a response to the recent suburban violence is today's major front-page and editorial story. But Le Figaro carries on its front page information that a couple of CIA flights transited through France. Liberation briefly notes the information revealed by the Guardian, and Le Monde also carried the story yesterday afternoon: "According to the New York Times and the Guardian, numerous flights passed through Europe since 9/11." The itemized list includes two alleged flights that landed in France. But Le Monde notes "that this does not prove any of these flights carried Islamic detainees towards detention centers, but adds to the sensitivity, which is already high in Europe." All report Secretary Rice's trip to Europe next week. (See Part C)

President Bush's "victory for Iraq" speech is noted in Le Monde and France Soir (See Part C), which devotes a full page to the U.S. policy in Iraq titled: "The U.S. More Than Ever Mired in Iraq" and interviews Middle East expert Robert Fisk: "Everyone knows that the reason for the war in Iraq is oil. But I also think that super powers need to flaunt their military might. I don't believe the U.S. is interested in exporting democracy to the Middle East. I do not think there will be a civil war in Iraq. This is a way of frightening the Iraqis into asking the Americans to stay."

On the occasion of the Franco-African summit in Bamako attended by President Chirac, La Croix analyzes France's Africa policy (See Part C) while communist L'Humanite devotes its lead and three pages of reports to the "complex relationship" between France and its former colonies.

The G7 meeting of Finance Ministers in London today leads La Tribune to ask: "What will be the G7's commitment towards the Doha round? The G7 is convinced that failure to reach an agreement in Hong Kong will impact negatively on the world's economy." In Le Figaro, Jean-Pierre Robin pens an op-ed on an "outdated G7." (See Part C)

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

Allegations of CIA Flights

"CIA Flights in France"
Thierry Vigoureux in right-of-center Le Figaro (12/02): "Days before Secretary Rice's trip to Europe, the story of CIA secret prisons is taking a new turn. According to the latest

SIPDIS
revelations, France served at least twice as a stopover for flights chartered by the CIA. The flights were namely used to transport Islamic suspects to Guantanamo. It is conceivable that many anonymous CIA flights may have transited through France and other countries. But it is also conceivable that at the time the French authorities knew nothing about such flights. The Foreign Affairs spokesperson said that although the French government 'wondered' about such flights having come through Paris, 'they had found nothing.' The Ministry of Defense has not commented. Obviously, France was simply a transit point for these flights. It is clear that the Americans preferred to use the air routes of closer allies, where they have military bases, such as Germany."

Iraq

"President Bush's Victory Speech"
Eric Leser in left-of-center Le Monde (12/02): "After losing control of its won party, the White House is trying to take

over the initiative and keep the opponents to the war from taking the upper hand. Because the Vice President has lost all credibility, it is up to the President to try and plug the holes. His new communications campaign consists in systematically countering every attack in the hopes of stopping his falling popularity ratings. His speech and the National Security Council's report on national security received a rather cold welcome from the Democrats."

G-7 Summit

"The G7: An Aristocracy that Must Accept to Reform"
Jean-Pierre Robin in right-of-center Le Figaro (12/02): "The fundamental question is the level of power that each state has in the face of the globalization of world markets. What is their true ability to influence the market? . It is clear that in the past several years the impact of the G7 on the course of events has been rather poor. This is true for the price of oil, but also for the economic growth imbalance between the U.S. and Europe. The so-called 'board of directors of the world economy' must learn to reform and the governments that participate in it should be truly cooperative. In short, they must accept to alter their domestic policies in accordance with the better good of the world at large."

Franco-African Summit

"France Opts for Less Interventionism in Africa"
Laurent d'Ersu in Catholic la Croix (12/02): "The Franco-African summit in Bamako will give President Chirac a new opportunity to assess France's Africa policy. His two terms in office have been marked by a series of African crises, the most serious being Cote d'Ivoire., but also by questions about France's interventionism. In Bamako, President Chirac will insist on 'maintaining solidarity with Africa, but also multilateralism.' The most concrete illustration of this new policy is probably the reforms of French military presence in Africa. It is fashionable these days to steer away from the old-style African policy based on personal relationships. Chirac will most probably present himself as an advocate for Africa, asking for increased development aid, defending international trade and urging for wide access to AIDS treatment, which he was the first to promote. But the reality for Africans on a day-to-day basis is more concrete, dealing more with immigration and visas."
STAPLETON